

ER-6-5351 b

JUL 14

The Honorable Carl Vinson, Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate the opportunity offered by your letter of January 17, 1955 to comment on the bill, H.R. 936, introduced by Congressman Cole. The case of Major William V. Holohan has, of course, received much publicity, and the facts generally are a matter of public record.

The records indicate that Major Holohan was selected not only for his military qualifications but for his qualities of integrity, strength of character, and devotion to American ideals. In itself, to parachute into strange country occupied by hostile forces takes a high degree of courage and fortitude. These were magnified by the particular circumstances obtaining in the area where Major Holohan landed. From that point to the time of his death he carried out his assigned mission with exemplary ability and courage under constantly hazardous conditions. There is no question of Major Holohan's honorable conduct to the moment when he met death while engaged in the performance of his official duties.

We trust the foregoing will be of assistance in consideration of the bill, but I feel I must add one thought. Many, many office of 'Strategic Services' representatives, military and civilian, went behind enemy lines by parachute drop, by water approach, or by infiltration. Many did so in the face of circumstances equally or, in some instances, more immediately hazardous to their lives than did Major Holohan. Some lost their lives and others were wounded or otherwise injured, and in some cases were captured, tortured, and executed. Many of these have already received decorations in person or posthumously.

*BEST COPY*  
*Available*

If it is determined to honor Major Holohan in the manner proposed by the bill, I feel it should be recognized that he was but one of a band of brave and devoted Americans who undertook service of this type with full awareness of the hazards to be encountered.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that they have no objection to the submission of this report.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

CGC:WLP/blc (6 June 55)

Rewritten(17 June 55)

Orig. & 1 - Adm.

2 - Signer

2 - Legislative Counsel

1 - DD/S

1 - General Counsel w/basic

JOHN R. BLANDFORD, N. Y.  
COUNSEL  
CHARLES F. DUCANDER, LA.  
COUNSEL  
PHILIP W. KELLEHER, VA.  
COUNSEL

Approved For Release 2005/08/24 : CIA-RDP62-00631R000200030015-2

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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
SUITE 313, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 17, 1955

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ROBERT W. SMART, CHIEF COUNSEL

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Dulles:

At the request of Congressman Cole, the  
author of the attached bill, H. R. 936, your comments  
on this legislative proposal are solicited.

Sincerely yours, .

  
Carl Vinson  
Chairman

Incl.

84TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 936

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1955

Mr. COLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

Authorizing and requesting the President to award the Legion of Merit posthumously to Major William V. Holohan.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That the President is hereby authorized and requested to  
4       award the Legion of Merit posthumously to Major William  
5       V. Holohan in recognition of his exceptionally meritorious  
6       conduct in the performance of outstanding services in the  
7       Office of Strategic Services during World War II as the  
8       commanding officer of the Mangostine mission operating  
9       behind German lines in Italy between September 26, 1944,  
10      and December 6, 1944, the date on which he was murdered.

III

84TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R. 936**

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**A BILL**

Authorizing and requesting the President to  
award the Legion of Merit posthumously to  
Major William V. Holohan.

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By Mr. COLE

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JANUARY 5, 1955

Referred to the Committee on Armed Services

(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	GENERAL COUNSEL	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	
2	1. JSN		
3	2. LRY		
4	3. File: Insect + Near - Holohan		
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	O/DCI	mfb	5 Jul 55
2			
3			

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

Remarks: